

REMARKS

The following argument is being filed in response to the final rejection mailed March 31, 2006. Applicants certainly appreciate the allowance of claims 6, 7, 9-12, and 14-23. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and objection of the remaining claims over Ippolito and respectfully request reconsideration.

Ippolito's "hollow recess " does not read upon Applicant's "recess" because the recess of Ippolito is not located on the journal surface as required in Applicant's Claim 1. Claim 1 recites in-part, "...a recess on an exterior portion of the journal surface...". In the Specification, on page 7 Lines 19-22, Applicants clearly delineate what is to be interpreted as the "journal surface." Here it recites, "The outer end of journal surface 18 is considered to be at the junction with the gland area engaged by seal 31, and the inner end of journal surface 18 is considered to be at the junction with the groove or race for balls 33." Moreover, those ordinarily skilled in this art refer to this specific area as the journal surface.

However, in direct contrast to what is claimed by Applicants, Ippolito's recess (i.e., flat 67) is located at the end face 32 of pin 12. (Col. 5, Lns. 29-42). This "end face" is more commonly referred to by those ordinary skilled in this art as the thrust bearing, and is to be distinguished from the journal surface. Those ordinarily skilled in this art would interpret the journal surface as corresponding to the portion of Ippolito's Figure 1 which extends from the edge of the outer counter bore 53 to the balls 15. Accordingly, Ippolito's recess does not read upon Applicant's Claim 1 because his recess is located at the thrust bearing, an altogether different location than Applicant's journal surface.

In summary, the Examiner has erroneously rejected Claim 1 based upon a mistaken interpretation of the art. The Examiner appears to interpret the journal surface of Ippolito as

corresponding to the entire surface of the pin 12. However, this is incorrect. Rather, the pin 12 is understood in the art as having two distinct and distinguishable surfaces referred to as the journal surface and the thrust bearing surface. Applicants claim a recess located on the journal surface, while Ippolito discloses a recess located on the thrust bearing surface. Accordingly, Applicants opine the present invention as claimed is distinguishable over the prior art. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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